

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of claims 3-5 as having allowable subject matter is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application 2003-226104 in view of European Patent Application Nos. 1 253 025 and 0 8870 631. Claim 1 has been cancelled, and claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 5, which is indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 2 and its dependent claims 3 and 4 are now believed to be allowable.

Claims 6-15 which are withdrawn as being drawn to a nonelected species have been amended to depend from independent claim 2. Claim 2 is believed to be generic to species described in claims 6-15. Therefore, claims 6-15 are now also believed to be allowable.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized

to charge fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,

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